Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1(Currently Amended). A method for prioritizing information within a network comprising the steps:

receiving at least one set of information within a network;

appending at least one priority parameter to <u>each of</u> the at least one set of information; [[and]]

<u>associating a priority value with each of the at least one set of information based on the at least one priority parameter;</u>

<u>tracking the priority values associated with each of the at least one set of information requested by a user; and</u>

transmitting the at least one set of information across the network at least partially based on [[a]]<u>the</u> priority value <u>of each of the at least one set of information requested by the user</u> ~~determined from the at least one priority parameter~~.

2(Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the priority value is at least partially based on one or more values of a set of priority parameter types, the set of priority parameter types comprising:

a connection identification;

a user identification;

a content identification;

a session identification;

a content type;

a website identification;

a domain content element type; and

a type of connection.

3(Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein a network device selectively determines the priority value at least partially based on a value associated with:

a connection identification priority parameter;

a user identification priority parameter;

a content identification priority parameter;

a session identification priority parameter;

a domain content type priority parameter;

a website identification priority parameter;

a content element type priority parameter; and

a type of connection priority parameter.

4(Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one set of information within a network comprises at least one packet.

5(Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one set of information within a network comprises at least one connection between a client and a web server.

6(Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises:

at least one intermediary server between at least one client and at least one originating server, wherein the intermediary server is responsible for determining the priority value for the set of information.

7(Original). The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one intermediary server receives a set of priority information via an out-of-band control system.

8(Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises:

at least one front-end server computer operatively connected to at least one client;

at least one back-end server computer operatively connected to at least one server and to the at least one front-end server computer, wherein the connection to the front-end server computer is implemented over a heterogeneous network.

9(Previously Presented). The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one front-end server computer is responsible for determining the priority value for the at least one set of information transmitted to a back-end server.

10(Previously Presented). The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one back-end server computer is responsible for determining the priority value for the at least one set of information transmitted to a front-end.

11(Previously Presented). The method of claim 8, additionally comprising using an out-of-band management system to translate a priority parameter associated with the at least one set of information into the priority value associated with the at least one set of information.

12(Original). The method claim 11, wherein the out-of-band management system provides a set of priority information to the at least one front-end server computer and the at least one back-end server computer via an out-of-band management system.

13(Currently Amended).   A method of transmitting requests from a client to a request-specified origin server comprising the acts of:

sending one or more requests from one or more client computers, the requests designating an origin server;

determining for each request whether a <u>request</u> priority parameter is associated with the request;

~~converting~~ <u>assigning</u> the <u>request</u> priority parameter to a first priority value; [[and]]

transmitting the requests to the origin server in an order based upon the first priority value[[.]]

<u>generating a response to the request using the origin server;</u>

<u>determining for the response whether a response priority parameter is associated with the response</u>

<u>marking the generated response with priority information;</u>

<u>assigning both the request priority information and the response priority parameter to a second priority value; and</u>

<u>transmitting the response to the requesting client computers according to the second priority value.</u>

14(Currently Amended). The method of claim 13 wherein the <u>request</u> priority parameter is included with the request.

15(Currently Amended). The method of claim 13 wherein the <u>request</u> priority parameter is determined by performing a lookup in a table.

16(Currently Amended). The method of claim 13 wherein the <u>request</u> priority parameter is obtained from the origin server.

17(Original). The method of claim 13 wherein the step of sending comprises sending the request with an associated domain-specific user priority parameter.

18(Original). The method of claim 13 wherein the step of sending comprises sending the request with an associated content priority parameter.

19(Canceled).

20(Currently Amended).   A method of transmitting messages from a source computer to a response-specified destination computer comprising the acts of:

sending a plurality of messages, wherein each message specifies a destination computer;

determining for each message whether the message is associated with a <u>content</u> priority parameter;

<u>determining for each message whether the message is associated with a user priority parameter;</u>

~~converting~~ <u>assigning</u> each <u>content</u> priority parameter[[s]] <u>and each user priority parameter</u> to a [[first]] <u>composite</u> priority value; and

transmitting the messages to the specified destination computers in an order based upon the <u>composite</u> priority value[[s]].

21(Canceled).

22(Canceled).

23(Original). The method of claim 20 wherein the step of determining comprises obtaining the priority parameter from the source computer.

24(Currently Amended).   A system for prioritizing information within a network comprising:

one or more source computers, each source computer generating a message specifying a network-connected destination computer within a first domain;

priority information associated with each message, wherein priority information comprises both content priority information and user priority information;

an intermediary server within a second domain receiving the messages and the priority information associated with the message; and

means within the intermediary server, source computers and destination computers for exchanging at least some of the priority information as parameters appended to requests.

25(Canceled).

26(Currently Amended). ~~The method of claim 25 further comprising:~~ A method of monitoring use of network server resources comprising:

associating a content priority value with each of a plurality of resources that are accessible through the network server, wherein the content priority value is based at least partially upon information associated with each of the plurality of resources;

for each user requesting the resources, tracking the content priority values associated with individual resources requested by the user; and

determining a composite priority value for each user wherein the composite priority value based at least partially upon the content priority values of each of the resources that are requested.

27(Currently Amended). A method of monitoring use of network server resources comprising:

providing a first plurality of secure resources and a second plurality of unsecure resources on the network server; and

for each user requesting the resources, tracking the whether the requested resources are secure or unsecure; and

determining a composite priority value for each user wherein the composite priority value based at least partially upon the number of resources that are requested that are secure and the number of resources that are requested that are unsecure.